

We may not carry guns or fight fires, but we play an important role in the emergency services family. Today I can help deliver a baby, I can help save a life by telling someone how to do CPR, I can be the calm voice that helps a parent locate their lost child. But I also carry emotional scars that most people could never imagine. I have been on the phone when someone has committed suicide, or taken their last breath, I have been the voice of caring for a loved one found their spouse passed away. I work 10-14 hours a day, I have missed many birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. I have spent more thanksgiving dinners with my fellow 911 dispatchers then I have gotten to spend with my family. Please join California, Texas, Iowa, Indian and West Virginia and designate 911 Dispatchers as first responders. It is time we receive the recognition we deserve for giving our state and communities everything we have on a daily basis.

Jeremy Hipes
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